

March 13, 2022

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing **IN SUPPORT** of:

- [S.B. No. 387](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.
- [S.B. No. 392](#) AN ACT CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE BY JUVENILES.

I am writing **IN STRONG OPPOSITION** to the following bills:

- [S.B. No. 365](#) AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS
- S.B. No. 388: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.
- [H.B. No. 5418](#) AN ACT REVISING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES AND INSURANCE STATUTES CONCERNING THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- [H.B. No. 5417](#) AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE AND SERVICES AND FIREARMS BACKGROUND CHECKS.
- [S.B. No. 386](#) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY LAWS OF THIS STATE.
- [S.B. No. 16](#) AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME

My name is Ann Percival. I am a retired white suburban voter. I care deeply about the safety of Connecticut's citizens. It's my contention that the bills I am submitting testimony to oppose do NOT advance safety. I vehemently resent the manipulation of court data to create a manufactured environment of fear that will lead to additional young people of color being harmed for a lifetime.

The incidence of increased car thefts by youth is not documented. Car thefts as a crime are dramatically lower than they were 30 years ago. The small increase that was recorded during these years of the COVID pandemic is not deserving of a panic. In 2020, only 7% of car theft cases were solved, and of those, nearly three-quarters of those convicted were adults. Of those car thefts, 97% of them were non-violent. Why do I fear particularly for young people of color? Look at the data for pre-adjudication admissions. While 4/5 white teens are sent home to await their court date, 4/5 Black and brown teens are sent to jail.

As a Christian, I call on our legislators to emphasize positive intervention strategies: after school activity centers, access to healthy food, access to affordable housing, access to mental health counseling. These are the pillars of a strategy that makes our state safer because it makes our children healthier.

Our state has made positive strides in alleviating harm to our youth through our Juvenile Justice System. Any changes that are being proposed ought to be vetted by the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee. This body represents the expertise of many and is open to input from a variety of principals in our justice system. I support SB 387 because it allows oversight to be carried out by this body.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my concerns. I call on you to vote with your conscience, to rise above fear-mongering, and to consider the generational impact that incarceration has on families.

Sincerely,

Ann Percival

26 Douglas Drive